

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1919 was held in its offices at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C. on Friday, June 6, 1919.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;

Mr. Adams;

Mr. Platt;

Mr. Kendall;

Mr. Greenleaf; and

Mr. Pope;

also Colonel C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m. and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting held in Washington on May 9 last were presented by the Secretary and approved.

2. MEMORIAL PLACQUE FOR THE NAVY DEPARTMENT: The Navy Department proposes to give a bronze plaque of appropriate design to the next of kin of any officer or enlisted man in the Navy who lost his life during the war of 1917-1919, whether by disease, accident, or incident of battle. Commander C. B. Mayo of that Department asked the Commission informally for their suggestions as to procedure in the matter and exhibited a rough design for such a memorial plaque. This design, he stated, was to be disregarded except as a general guide and as to the lettering which has been worked out as being appropriate for the purpose. The plaque should be approximately the same size of sample. Historic metal is to be used

for the material. It is proposed to stamp these plaques rather than cast them, the limit of cost being tentatively fixed at \$1.00 each - this to include services of artists, material, stamping, in fact everything to furnish a completed plaque. About 11,000 plaques are figured on. Commander Mayo lunched with the Commission; and this gave Mr. Adams a chance to discuss the artistic elements involved with the Commander, who requested a written statement that he could use in formulating and reenforcing his recommendations in the matter to the Secretary of the Navy. This statement is shown under Exhibit A.

3. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL: The Chairman brought up for discussion the questions of site and design for a proposed memorial to Theodore Roosevelt which Mr. Elihu Root had informally brought to the attention of the members of the Commission at a luncheon at the Century Club on May 19th last. A general interchange of thoughts and ideas ensued, including a discussion of Mr. Carl Akeley's design for the memorial lion proposed for Rock Creek Park, and a carillon; and, as to sites, the possibilities of the use of the southern termination of the north and south cross axis of the Mall whose northern termination is the White House, as well as available areas along Sixteenth street. Later in the day members made an inspection trip along Sixteenth street. No definite action was taken.

4. ARLINGTON FARMS MATTER: The plan and layout for the development of Arlington Farms, submitted by the Department of Agriculture, had been held over from the last meeting. The location and arrangement of the main group of buildings was considered satisfactory and settled, but the lower group had not been thoroughly considered, and the Commission decided later to make an inspection on the ground in order to arrive at a conclusion. The matter therefore was held until the next meeting.

5. CAPITAL CEMETERIES PROJECT: (See minutes of preceding meeting) The Commission was prevented later in the day from making an inspection of the properties

and project of the Capital Cemeteries Company which has its holdings immediately to the east of the Reform School property along the Anacostia River. This private corporation is endeavoring so to arrange the roads within its property lines as to harmonize with the future Government park roads terminating at the Reform School property. The following day, however, Mr. Moore and Mr. Greenleaf accompanied Mr. Small and Captain Peaslee, respectively landscape designer and architect for that company, to the properties and advised regarding the situation.

6. REVISED LAYOUT FOR WALKS AND REAR ENTRANCE TO COURT HOUSE IN JUDICIARY

PARK: Colonel Ridley asked the Commission's opinion regarding the layout for walks and rear entrance to the Court House in Judiciary Park, revised by the landscape architect under his office to meet the Commission's suggestions at a preceding meeting. No criticism of the rear entrance treatment was offered, but the walk system was changed from that proposed, members of the Commission joining in sketching their suggestion for the desirable layout for the guidance of the landscape architect. (See plan Judiciary No: 1 - 6-6-19.)

7. MERIDIAN HILL: Colonel Ridley asked the members of the Commission to inspect a number of progress drawings for the proposed water treatment of the lower and middle parts of Meridian Hill Park. Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Platt, and Mr. Pope joined in the criticism.

Of alternative schemes presented, the longitudinal section of the pools having the most pronounced curve and the transverse section having the walk along each pool at the approximate level of the next pool above, with a flat coping separating the walk from the water planting, was approved. It was also advised that the grade line could come near the top of the outer enclosing walls with gutter suppressed. A complete model of the accepted scheme was advised.

A sketch having been submitted for the termination of the main axis across the lower garden, it was decided to simplify the outlines of the central pool and eliminate the border planting, so as to avoid comparison of right lines with forced

perspective. In subsequent conversation, the open exedra treatment, similar to Villa Pia, with flanking features instead of a central motif, was favorably considered. Sketches along the above lines will be prepared for later consideration by the Commission.

8. DESIGNS FOR BENNING AND ALLEN AND PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD BRIDGES ACROSS THE ANACOSTIA: Colonel Tyler, in charge of the local United States Engineer Office, accompanied by his assistant engineer, Mr. Harrison, laid before the Commission revised plans for the Benning and Allen Bridges to be constructed by the United States across the Anacostia River, and for the new railroad bridge also to be constructed by the Pennsylvania Railroad across that river. Certain modifications were desired in the Benning and Allen bridge design which Colonel Tyler made and resubmitted later in the day; at that time a few more changes for the better were made, and the plans approved. As to the railroad bridge, the Commission approved it as far as it went in this small-scale design, but advised that minor modifications should be made in the towers when the working drawings are to be prepared. Mr. Pope agreed to sketch the desired changes, these suggestions to be placed on file in the office for use at the proper time.

9. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT: A photograph of Mr. Blashfield's design for the new certificate of merit for discharged wounded soldiers was inspected and thought well of. Upon taking it to General March, the Chief of Staff, and the Secretary of War, Mr. Moore had pointed out a number of desired modifications and these have been communicated to Mr. Blashfield.

10. HEARING ON NATIONAL VICTORY MEMORIAL FOREST AND PARK: By appointment, former Mayor Preston of Baltimore headed a delegation of men from that city and Washington who appeared at 10:30 in the morning and who were interested in the establishment of a National Victory Memorial Forest and Park between Washington and Baltimore. In addition to the Mayor the delegation comprised Blanchard Randall, John Philip Hill, and Wm. M. Ellicott, of Baltimore; Cass Gilbert and Thomas Hastings,

architects of New York City; R. Zon and J. G. Peters of the U. S. Forestry Service; F. W. Besley, Forester for Maryland; Stephen Mather of the U. S. National Park Service; and Horace Wells Sellers, Glen Brown, Edward C. Kemper, Edward Donn and Waddy Wood of the American Institute of Architects.

A pamphlet entitled A National Capital Forest, by Wm. M. Ellicott and F. W. Besley was laid before the Commission as containing in graphic form those general arguments in favor of the acquisition of the land in question. The main argument advanced appeared to be that a memorial forest and park adjacent to the District of Columbia would be "an admirable and suitable memorial to those who have suffered and died in this great war of democracy against tyranny and to the great service rendered to humanity by our Navy, our Armies, and the Nation; and that the reclamation of the lands under consideration and creating on them a great pleasure and demonstration forest and park would be of the greatest value to the Capitol and the Nation, and to future generations." The topography of the land in question was referred to as being similar to that of the Argonne, Belleau Woods, and around Verdun, and hence having a particular memorial value. It was observed that the land could be bought nine years ago for an average of \$26 per acre, or about \$2,600,000 for the project; the present cost was not known. The Commission advised the delegation that they were greatly interested in this project, and would endorse it heartily should the matter ever come before them officially; but that no initiatory action could be taken by them in advance of a regular official reference according to law.

11. BALLOONIST AND PILOT INSIGNIA: Mr. Adams reported that as a committee with power he had disapproved two samples submitted by the War Department for insignias made from models designed and prepared by himself for balloonist and pilot insignia because they were not good reproductions. Before communicating this disapproval to the War Department, he had arranged with the Philadelphia Mint people, who prepared the dies, for the submission of another sample of each insignia for the approv-

al of the Commission which they promised will measure up to the necessary standard. These new samples are now being prepared.

12. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES IN PERSONNEL: Colonel Ridley advised that Congress would probably provide for a much-needed stenographer and typewriter in the office, if the provisions in the pending Sundry Civil Bill would be adhered to. The Commission authorized the Secretary to appoint a permanent stenographer and typewriter with compensation at a rate of not to exceed \$1,320 per annum, plus bonus.

The resignation of Arno B. Cammerer as Assistant to the Secretary was accepted as of close of business July 2, 1919, and the position of Assistant to the Secretary abolished after that date.

The Commission authorized the appointment of Mr. H. P. Cammerer as Clerk to the Commission with compensation at the rate of \$1,800 per annum, plus bonus, the appointment to take effect July 1, 1919.

There being no further business before the meeting, the Commission adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

Approved _____:

Chairman.

Colonel, USA.,
Secretary and Executive
Officer.

*Approved [unclear]
[unclear]*



C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

June 13, 1919.

Dear Commander Mayo:-

Referring to your letter of June 5, in reference to "a bronze placque of appropriate design to be given by the Navy Department to the next of kin of any Officer or Enlisted man in the Navy, who lost his life during the War of 1917-1919, whether by disease, accident or incident of battle;" I have talked with Mr. Adams, the sculptor member of this Commission, and it is suggested that authority be given the Commission to have a design drawn or modeled as may be convenient. The design is to consist of a wreath with two fouled anchors, and an inscription furnished by the Department. The Commission will undertake to have estimates made of the cost of 11,000 placques, all elements of cost to be included. The design to be approved by the Navy Department; the size, cost, etc. also to be approved by the Department. I trust this will be satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Commander C. B. Mayo.

